



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7359

LCO No. 5353

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Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING A GRANT PROGRAM TO COMBAT TRUANCY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Department of
2 Education, in consultation with the youth futures committee
3 established under section 1 of public act 06-182, shall develop, within
4 available appropriations, the Youth Engaged in Schools demonstration
5 project. For purposes of the project, the department shall provide
6 competitive grants to up to five local or regional boards of education
7 for school districts that have drop-out rate that exceed the state
8 average to establish a school and community-based truancy
9 prevention initiative. The initiative shall be designed to (1) address the
10 needs of students who exhibit patterns of unexcused absences from
11 school, (2) assist school districts to implement school wide positive
12 discipline policies and practices that lead to a decrease in truancy, (3)
13 decrease school drop-out rates, decrease school suspension and
14 expulsion rates, and (4) increase social, emotional, life skills and
15 academic competencies of students. A local and regional board of
16 education may apply to the department for a grant at such time and in
17 such manner as the Commissioner of Education prescribes.

18 (b) Recipients of grants pursuant to this section shall use the grant
19 money for purposes, including, but not limited to:

20 (1) Implementation of research-based school-wide positive
21 discipline policies and practices;

22 (2) Implementation of a method to monitor school attendance;

23 (3) Enhancement of any existing in-school truancy prevention
24 programs;

25 (4) Enhancement of after school and summer school programs;

26 (5) Implementation of school and community-based intervention
27 programs that target families with elementary school students who
28 exhibit persistent patterns of absenteeism or truancy;

29 (6) Provision of tutoring, mentoring and other academic or life skills
30 initiatives for students at risk of being truant;

31 (7) Establishment or enhancement of research-based reading
32 instruction as described in the report by the Early Reading Success
33 Panel established pursuant to section 10-221j of the general statutes
34 and on-site teacher training and coaching in such instruction as
35 described in subsection (d) of section 10-265f of the general statutes;

36 (8) Provision of substance abuse prevention and intervention
37 services and referrals, if appropriate;

38 (9) Involvement of parents or guardians in all appropriate truancy
39 prevention and intervention activities, with meaningful incentives for
40 parental responsibility and participation;

41 (10) Assurance that students face appropriate sanctions for truancy;

42 (11) Development of means to address new students' anxiety and
43 difficulties in making the transition to a new school;

44 (12) Provision of in-school alternative education initiatives for
45 chronic truants; and

46 (13) Provision of opportunities for youth employment, job
47 shadowing and other job readiness activities.

48 (c) Each local or regional board of education that receives a
49 competitive grant under this section shall (1) provide (A) monthly
50 truancy reports to the Department of Education, and (B) annual
51 detailed data on school attendance and an analysis of the effectiveness
52 of the program components in achieving the purposes of the program
53 as described in subdivisions (1) through (4), inclusive, of subsection (a)
54 of this section, and (2) demonstrate participation and collaboration
55 with the chief of police, youth service bureau or other organizations
56 serving youth, the business community and other community-based
57 service networks, for the provision of services to prevent truancy and
58 promote and keep youth engaged in school.

59 (d) Not later than January first, annually, the Department of
60 Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
61 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the
62 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
63 and appropriations regarding the efficacy of the program developed in
64 accordance with this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	New section

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Statement of Purpose:

To establish a competitive grant program to combat truancy.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]